

Notice of Completion and Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Public Meeting for Relicensing of the Oroville Facilities, FERC Project No. 2100

California Department of Water Resources

To Responsible Agencies and Interested Parties:

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is in the process of seeking a new 50 year hydroelectric license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to operate the existing Oroville Facilities. DWR has made available for public review and comment the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Oroville Facilities Relicensing, FERC Project No. 2100. The State Clearinghouse Number for this EIR is: SCH 2001102011.

Project Location

The Oroville Facilities are located on the Feather River in the Sierra Nevada foothills 5 miles east of the City of Oroville and about 130 miles northeast of San Francisco. The Oroville Facilities were constructed in the 1960's as part of the State Water Project (SWP), a water storage and delivery system of reservoirs, aqueducts, power plants, and pumping plants designed to store and distribute water to supplement the needs of urban and agricultural water users and to meet recreational needs.

Project Description

The Oroville Facilities, as part of the SWP, are also operated for flood management, power generation, water quality improvement in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta, recreation, and fish and wildlife enhancement. The objective of the Proposed Project is the continued operation and maintenance of the Oroville Facilities for electric power generation, along with implementation of any terms and conditions to be considered for inclusion in a new FERC hydroelectric license. The initial FERC license for the Oroville Facilities, issued on February 11, 1957, expired on January 31, 2007. The Oroville Facilities are currently operating under an annual license issued by FERC effective February 1, 2007.

The Proposed Project is the *Settlement Agreement for Licensing of the Oroville Facilities Project No. 2100* signed March 21, 2006 (Settlement Agreement). Accordingly, the Draft EIR evaluates the potential environmental impacts that may be associated with implementation of the Settlement Agreement as the basis for new license conditions that may be issued by FERC.

The following describes the Settlement Agreement Plans and Programs related to relicensing the Oroville Facilities for continued hydroelectric power generation:

- Continued operation of the Oroville Facilities under a new FERC License;
- Lower Feather River Habitat Improvement Plan;
- Gravel Supplementation and Improvement Program;

- Channel Improvement Program;
- Structural Habitat Supplementation and Improvement Program;
- Fish Weir Program;
- Riparian and Floodplain Improvement Program;
- Feather River Hatchery Management Program;
- Lake Oroville Warmwater Fishery Habitat Improvement Program;
- Lake Oroville Coldwater Fishery Improvement Program;
- Water Quality Monitoring Program;
- Oroville Wildlife Area Management Plan;
- Invasive Plant Management Plan;
- Project Supplemental Benefits Fund;
- Recreation Management Plan;
- Feather River Whitewater Boating Opportunity Feasibility Study;
- Analysis of a Non-Motorized Water Trail Shoreline Access;
- Fuel Load Management Plan;
- Additional river stage and/or precipitation gaging;
- Feather River Fish Hatchery Funding;
- Revision of Speed Limit Regulation for Thermalito Afterbay;
- Flow/Temperature Modifications to Support Anadromous Fish;
- United States Forest Service Conditions; and a
- Draft Habitat Expansion Agreement for Anadromous Fish.

Significant Environmental Impacts

Potentially significant environmental impacts are identified from the DEIR analysis in the following categories: geology, paleontological resources, aquatic and terrestrial resources, noise, air quality, and public health/safety. Proposed mitigation measures described in the DEIR would reduce all potential impacts to less than significant. Other resource categories for which impacts were found to be less than significant include: soils, water quality, water quantity, recreation, cultural, visual, and agricultural resources, housing/population/public services, traffic and transportation.

Listed Toxic Sites

Based on information known to date, the project area is not listed as a toxic site.

Document Availability

Copies of the Draft EIR are available for public inspection and review at the following locations:

City	Location	Address
Oroville	Oroville Public Library	1820 Mitchell Avenue, Oroville CA 95965
Oroville	DWR, Oroville Field Division	460 Glen Drive, Oroville, CA 95966
Red Bluff	DWR, Northern District	2440 Main Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080
Sacramento	DWR Headquarters	1416 9th Street, Room 338, Sacramento, CA 95814

The DEIR is also available on the following DWR website:

www.orovillerelicensing.water.ca.gov. A CD containing the Draft EIR may be requested by contacting Ann Lundberg at the California Department of Water Resources at (916) 653-6700.

Public Comment Period

The comment period for this document begins on May 21, 2007, and closes on July 20, 2007. Only written comments, and oral or written comments presented at the public meeting (see below), on the DEIR will be accepted. Written comments may be mailed to Henry M. Ramirez, Manager, Oroville Facilities Relicensing Program, California Department of Water Resources, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1155, Sacramento, California, 95814.

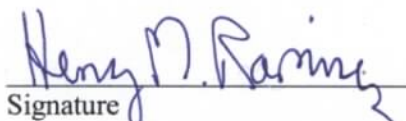
Public Meeting

A public meeting is also scheduled so that DWR can accept oral or written comments regarding the project's environmental effects. The specifics of this meeting are:

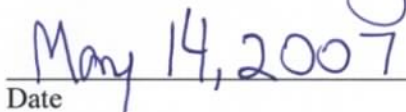
City	Date	Time	Location
Oroville	June 21, 2007	4:00 pm	Garner Pavilion at Kelly Ridge, 5131 Royal Oaks Drive, Oroville, CA 95966 (Kelly Ridge)

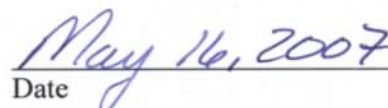
Henry M. Ramirez, Manager
Oroville Facilities Relicensing Program

Barbara McDonnell, Chief
Division of Environmental Services


Signature


Signature


Date


Date